

JAMES F. STOKES
236 Buckminster Court
Lake Bluff, IL 60044
847-234-5665

September 20, 2011

RE: Mabley Center, Dixon, Illinois

Dear _____:

Please, please, please do not close the Mabley Center for the Developmentally Disabled. This is a facility, not an institution in which the state can be proud as opposed to the many things in which Illinois cannot take pride.

The residents/clients are very real people each having many sorry issues. They have various levels of retardation, are blind and/or deaf, are autistic, have motor control problems and behavioral problems of consequence. Plus, believe it or not, they get sick. Taking care of these people takes courage, dedication, extensive training, sign language skills, a good heart and patience to give these people some kind of a life which this staff does exceptionally well. The campus is definitely a very clean home environment. It is not a warehouse for the severely mentally and physically disabled.

Some are able to attend a workshop doing very simple tasks like spooling thin copper wire. Some are able to go to a horse farm to ride which is a therapy as are body massages. Parents or guardians pay these costs.

There is a clear moral responsibility here which is currently being fulfilled. Turning these very human beings over to the community to well meaning, untrained people would be destined for failure. It would not last 48 hours.

The budget can be cut for things, but not severely handicapped people. Pass a supplemental appropriation to keep Mabley Center open.

Very truly yours,

James F. Stokes

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